

Message Text

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: DOD MEMORANDA ON STANDARDIZATION

IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT
CIEFS OF STAFF, SECRETARY RUMSFELD HAS DIRECTED THE
RELEASE TO NATO OF AN 8 NOV 1975 DOD MEMORANDUM, QUOTE
BASIC POLICY FOR NATO WEAPON SYSTEM STANDARDIZATION UNQUOTE
(COPIES OF THIS MEMORANDUM PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO MISSION).

CONCURRENTLY, SECDEF DIRECTED THE RELEASE TO NATO OF THE
FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM:

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QUOTE MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY
DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL
DIRECTOR, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMMAND AND CONTROL
SYSTEMS
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: NATO WEAPON SYSTEMS STANDARDIZATION

REFERENCE: DOD MEMORANDUM, BASIC POLICY FOR NATO WEAPON
SYSTEM STANDARDIZATION (8 NOVEMBER 1975)

IN MY DECEMBER MEETING IN BRUSSELS WITH THE NATO DEFENSE
MINISTERS, I EMPHASIZED THAT THE ALLIANCE MUST PUSH TOWARD
THE IMPORTANT GOALS OF STANDARDIZATION, RATIONALIZATION,
AND INTEROPERABILITY. WITH PRESSURES ON DEFENSE BUDGETS,
A GROWING INTOLERANCE OF WASTE, AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE
GROWTH IN SOVIET CAPABILITIES, WE HAVE BOTH THE INCENTIVE
AND, MORE IMPORTANT, THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE REAL
PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION. WE MUST LOOK AHEAD
SYSTEMATICALLY TO DETERMINE COMMON NEEDS FOR MODERN
WEAPONS AND TO DEVELOP A BASIS FOR SHARING IN THE
DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS.

I FULLY SUPPORT THE BASIC DOD NATO STANDARDIZATION POLICY
WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 1975, AND REQUEST YOUR
ASSISTANCE IN FORMING A MORE COMBAT READY AND COST
EFFECTIVE ALLIANCE THROUGH THE STANDARDIZATION OF NATO
WEAPON SYSTEMS. SIGNED, DONALD RUMSFELD UNQUOTE.

JCS HAS APPRISED US MILREP NATO OF SECDEF APPROVAL FOR
THESE RELEASES.

ADDRESSEES ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THESE TWO UNCLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE WITHIN NATO AS APPROPRIATE.

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THIS IS A JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE.

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